



June 2, 2015

Rep. Wayne Schmidt, Chair
and Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Members
Anderson House Office Building
124 North Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

VIA Email to: Mary Lou Terrien, Committee Clerk, mterrie@house.mi.gov

RE: HB 5142, proposed new fee for accessing driver's license records

Dear Chair Schmidt and Committee Members:

The proposed HB 5142 on accessing driver's license record information to support an "additional web portal development fee" amounts to a hidden tax for citizens of the State of Michigan and any individual or entity, including journalists, insurance companies and others. This would be a tax without justification or reason.

Fees under MCL 257.208b of the Motor Vehicle Code, well in excess of \$25 million annually according to the House Fiscal Agency Report, have been collected by the Secretary of State and deposited in the Transportation Administration Collection Fund. Those fees were due to expire after a decade on October 1, 2015.

The proposed bill not only eliminates the sunset for the monies collected for the TACF, but it creates a new revenue stream to be collected by the State to help pay for its web portal development. It's a back door effort to push through yet another tax on the backs of the people. The additional fees, that are unspecified in amount or duration could amount to an impediment in public access to what should be public documents--already paid for by the citizens of Michigan.

If a private contractor is used by the state for web portal development, that entity, according to language in the bill, gets to keep the money. It does not get tracked through even the TACF as a check and balance to ensure that the monies are being spent appropriately.

Further, again according to language in the bill, the competitive bidding for a private contractor is only nominally an option.

This is a bad deal for the citizens of the State of Michigan and the Michigan Coalition for Open Government opposes it.

www.miopengov.org
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Michigan Coalition for **Open**Government

The Michigan Coalition for Open Government is a tax exempt, Michigan nonprofit corporation founded to promote and protect transparency and accountability in the governments of the people, by the people and for the people at the local, state and federal levels.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jane Briggs-Bunting". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a trailing flourish at the end.

Jane Briggs-Bunting, Esq.
President
Michigan Coalition for Open Government
www.miopengov.org